

Hi Julie,

I am submitting the following comments on the draft ordinance on behalf of our regional group, Valley Water Conservation Advocates. We found it difficult to edit the PDF document available on the website. I've added these comments into the Word version you just provided too. Please let me know if you have any questions. We're aware the deadline for comments is today and may still submit additional input.

Sincerely,

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Valley Water Conservation Advocates
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Review Edits and Comments on the Draft Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (6/26/15)

The addition of language promoting multiple benefits of integrated landscape management including stormwater and regenerative landscape techniques is a welcome addition to the ordinance and essential to the state meeting the current and future challenges of climate change.

We note that many of the steps mentioned are “recommended,” and we request the Department of Water Resources to work with other state agencies including Cal Recycle, and the State Water Resources Control Board, to determine how stormwater and soils management language can be brought more fully into the Landscape Ordinance as essential elements and not just recommendations.

Is the term “regenerative landscape systems” defined? Language needs to be added to identify limitations or lack of applicability of artificial turf.

Under 490.1 Applicability.

Include: those areas now landscaped but proposed to be converted to artificial turf, impervious surfaces or located near sensitive receptors.

§490 b.1 Purpose: the word “transcend” is unclear in the context of an ordinance. Replace the word as follows:

“...~~integrate and transcend~~ stormwater management, carbon capture in soils through use of compost and mulch, and the conservation and efficient use of water;

Graywater reference: Health and Safety Code Section 17922.12.

491. Definitions.

(v) “hardscapes” Specifically include artificial turf in this definition.

The following section should be struck as there is no legal definition of a “landscape designer,” in the published California Business and Profession code.

(see: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/html/bpc_table_of_contents.html). If such code exists it needs to be properly cited.

(hh) “landscape designer” means a person permitted by the Business and Profession Code to prepare plans, drawings, and specifications for the selection, placement, or use of plants for single family dwellings. They may prepare drawings for the conceptual design and placement of tangible objects and landscape features. A landscape designer may not prepare construction documents, details, or specifications for tangible landscape objects or landscape features or prepare grading and drainage plans for the alteration of sites.

(uuu) “turf” Specifically exclude artificial turf from this definition.

In those cases where turf is not allowed, include artificial turf in the restriction unless it is shown to meet the intended goals and objectives of the regulation.

§ 492.176 Public Education

(a) Publications. Education is a critical component to promote the efficient use of water in landscapes

The use of appropriate principles of design, installation, management and maintenance that save water is encouraged in the community.

(1) A local agency or water supplier/purveyor shall provide information to owners of permitted renovations and new single-family residential homes regarding the design, installation, management, and maintenance of water efficient landscapes including soil amendments, graywater systems, rainwater retention, and ~~based on a water budgets~~.

(b) Model Homes. All model homes shall be landscaped and that are landscaped shall use signs and written information to demonstrate the principles of water efficient landscapes described in this ordinance.

(1) Signs shall be used to identify the model as an example of a water efficient landscape featuring elements such as hydrozones, irrigation equipment, and others that contribute to the overall water efficient theme. Signage shall include information about the site water use as designed per the local ordinance; specify who designed and installed the water efficient landscape; and demonstrate low water use approaches to landscaping such as using native plants, graywater systems, and rainwater retention, including landscape elements and catchment systems.

492.6 Landscape Design Plan.

2. “plant and turf” species Turf species are also plants for the purpose described here. Maybe insert "individual" before plant in the sentence?

(D) Turf Include artificial turf in this exclusion.